West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc.
MNI WICONI WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

West River/Lyman-Jones
Rural Water Systems Inc.

Quality On Tap!

July 2026 | Volume 22, Issue 1

WATER DISTRIBUTION: THEN AND NOW

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER

FIRST WATER APPRENTICESHIP COHORT

ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

SEE PAGE 13 FOR MORE INFO

MANAGER'S REPORT

Jake Fitzgerald
Manager, West River/Lyman-Jones RWS

PHILIP WIND PROJECT

The Philip Wind Farm Project, being developed by Invenergy north of Philip, SD, is moving forward following approval by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. The project is expected to include 56 to 87 wind turbines and will interconnect with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) through a newly constructed substation. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year, with completion targeted for 2027.

WR/LJ has existing water pipelines within the planned wind farm area. To protect this infrastructure and facilitate future project coordination, WR/LJ has entered into a crossing agreement with Invenergy. In addition, WR/LJ was requested to relocate approximately 1,500 feet of the existing 8-inch mainline to accommodate construction of the WAPA substation. The relocation was completed in March 2026. WR/LJ was fully reimbursed by WAPA for all associated costs. WR/LJ will continue to coordinate closely with project developers to safeguard water system infrastructure.

ELBON SERVICE AREA IMPROVEMENTS

WR/LJ continues to plan and invest in infrastructure to meet growing water demands across our service area. Our next major focus is the large rural region north of Philip, known as the Elbon service area. Water demand in this area has increased significantly over the past several years, driven largely by agricultural growth and use.

The existing Elbon Water Tower, located about 15 miles north of Philip, has a capacity of 100,000 gallons. However, over the past five years, peak summer flows in this service area have approached 500,000 gallons per day – placing increasing strain on the current infrastructure. To meet these demands, WR/LJ is collaborating with our engineering team to develop a project that includes the construction of a new 500,000-gallon water tower, approximately eight miles of new 8-inch pipeline, and a new pump station.

This improvement project will also enhance system reliability by linking the Elbon and Moenville service areas in northeastern Haakon County. These upgrades are essential to maintaining an adequate supply, improving system resilience, and supporting continued growth in our rural communities. WR/LJ will continue to keep members informed as planning progresses and timelines are finalized.

Visit us online at: www.wrlj.com

West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc.
MNI WICONI WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

MURDO PROJECT OFFICE

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PHILIP FIELD OFFICE

PO Box 144
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Mike Vetter .... O & M Foreman
Eddie Dartt .... O & M
John Kramer .... O & M
Nick Konst .... O & M

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

The WR/LJ Rural Water Annual Meeting will be held in Philip on Wednesday, October 14th at the Philip shop building. Election of Directors will be held for:

- **Zone 1** – *Rural Stanley County north of the Bad River*
- **Zone 2A** – *Rural Lyman County west of Township line between Range 75W and Range 76W; and rural Stanley County south of the Bad River*
- **Zone 4A** – *Rural Mellette County*

More details about the meeting will be in the October Quality on Tap! newsletter. Make plans to attend!

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

In observance of the following holidays, WR/LJ Rural Water offices will be closed on the following days:

July 3, 2026 – Independence Day
September 7, 2026 – Labor Day

In case of an emergency, please call the Murdo area at 530-0932 or the Philip area at 530-1136 for assistance.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

WR/LJ Rural Water is proud to announce the recipients of four $750 scholarships for 2026. The scholarship is established to help promote educational opportunity for students of a member of WR/LJ Rural Water or students that attend a high school in WR/LJ's service area. Congratulations to the following scholarship winners:

Alekza Garcia

is a graduate of Stanley County High School. She is the daughter of Jose & Argelia Garcia. Her goal is to further her education at the University of South Dakota and majoring in Health Sciences with a specialization in clinical studies.

Creston Burns

is a graduate of Philip High School. He is the son of Craig & Heidi Burns. He plans to study accounting at South Dakota State University.

Austan Kjerstad

is a graduate of Wall High School. He is the son of Brennan & Laurie Kjerstad. He plans to attend South Dakota State University and earn a degree in Agricultural Business.

Shaylee Porch

is a graduate of Kadoka High School. She is the daughter of Shayne & Heidi Porch. She will be attending Chadron State College where she will be pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business, with a minor in Equine Science/ Management.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S BEST BEACHES FOR SUMMER FUN

South Dakota may be landlocked, but it still offers some incredible beaches and swimming spots perfect for cooling off during the summer. From scenic Black Hills lakes to large Missouri River reservoirs, the state is filled with sandy shorelines, clear water, and family-friendly recreation areas. Whether you enjoy boating, swimming, paddleboarding, fishing, or simply relaxing in the sun, there are plenty of great destinations to explore.

SYLVAN LAKE

One of the most popular beach destinations in the state is Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park. Often considered one of the most beautiful lakes in South Dakota, Sylvan Lake is surrounded by towering granite formations and pine-covered hills. The lake features a small swimming beach along with opportunities for kayaking, hiking, and picnicking. Its scenic setting makes it a favorite stop for both tourists and locals visiting the Black Hills.

LEWIS & CLARK RECREATION AREA

Another top destination is the Lewis & Clark Recreation Area near Yankton. Located along Lewis & Clark Lake on the Missouri River, this area offers sandy beaches, warm water, campgrounds, marinas, and excellent boating opportunities. Families often spend entire weekends here enjoying the water and outdoor recreation. The large reservoir provides plenty of space for swimming, fishing, and water sports.

SHERIDAN LAKE

Sheridan Lake, located west of Rapid City in the Black Hills, is another excellent summer getaway. The lake features one of the largest swimming beaches in the region and offers calm water ideal for families. Campgrounds and picnic areas nearby make it easy to spend a full day — or even an entire vacation — at the lake.

ANGOSTURA RECREATION AREA

For those visiting southwest South Dakota, Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs is a must-see. Known for its clear water and sandy shoreline, Angostura Reservoir is popular for boating, jet skiing, swimming, and camping. The warmer water temperatures make it especially appealing during the hottest months of summer.

LAKE VERMILLION

Eastern South Dakota also has great beach options, including Lake Vermillion Recreation Area near Canistota. Located just a short drive from Sioux Falls, the area features a swimming beach, campgrounds, hiking trails, and picnic shelters. It has become a convenient summer destination for families looking for a quick getaway close to home.

CASCADE FALLS

For a more unique swimming experience, many visitors head to Cascade Falls near Hot Springs. Unlike traditional lakes or reservoirs, Cascade Falls is a natural spring-fed swimming hole with crystal-clear water that stays around 67 degrees year-round. The flowing water and natural rock surroundings make it one of the Black Hills' hidden gems.

These are just a few of the many great places to cool off and enjoy the outdoors across South Dakota. To discover even more parks, beaches, and recreation areas, visit gfp.sd.gov/parks.

WATER DISTRIBUTION: Then and Now

Water has always been essential to human life. From the earliest civilizations to modern communities, people have relied on systems to collect, transport, and protect clean water. The story of water distribution is closely tied to the development of human civilization itself.

Historians believe the first major advancements in water systems began nearly 10,000 years ago as people shifted from hunting and gathering to farming and permanent settlements. Early civilizations in regions such as present-day Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome developed creative ways to move water from distant sources to growing communities. Ancient Persians constructed underground tunnels called qanats to transport water from mountain aquifers to dry plains for irrigation and domestic use. These systems were lined with stone and waterproofed materials to improve durability and reduce water loss.

The Greeks and Romans later expanded on these ideas, introducing more advanced piping and aqueduct systems. The Romans, in particular, became known for their engineering skill. Their aqueducts carried water over long distances using gravity, supplying cities, baths, and public fountains with dependable water service. Roman engineers standardized the use of lead and clay pipes and built impressive systems that remained functional for centuries. Many remnants of these aqueducts still stand today as symbols of early innovation in public water infrastructure.

During the medieval period, water systems in Europe became simpler and more localized. Communities relied on wells, springs, cisterns, and wooden pipes to provide drinking water. By the 17th century, improvements in pumping technology allowed water companies to move water into reservoirs and eventually pipe it directly into homes. The development of cast-iron pipe in the 1800s marked another major advancement, creating stronger and longer-lasting water mains for growing cities.

In North America, early settlers initially depended on rivers, lakes, springs, and shallow wells for water. The first public waterworks in the United States was established in Boston in 1652 for firefighting and domestic use. Early systems often used hollowed-out wooden logs as water mains. These wooden pipes were joined together and sealed with tar to transport water through communities.

Philadelphia became a leader in water system innovation during the early 1800s. In 1801, the city introduced large steam engines for municipal water conveyance, and in 1804 it became the first city in the world to widely adopt cast-iron pipe for water mains. Other cities quickly followed, replacing aging wooden systems with more durable iron infrastructure. Over time, improvements in pipe joints, steel pipe manufacturing, and eventually ductile iron pipe dramatically improved reliability and flexibility within distribution systems.

Today's water distribution systems use a wide range of materials, including ductile iron, steel, concrete, copper, and various plastics. Modern technology has also transformed how systems are operated and maintained. Leak detection equipment, automated controls, GPS mapping, pressure monitoring, and advanced treatment processes help utilities deliver safe and reliable drinking water more efficiently than ever before.

Although materials and technologies have changed over thousands of years, the mission remains the same — providing communities with safe, dependable water. From ancient stone channels to today's sophisticated distribution networks, the evolution of water systems reflects humanity's ongoing commitment to protecting one of our most valuable resources.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER

Protecting water resources has always been important in South Dakota, but today it is becoming increasingly clear that protecting water also means building strong partnerships. Across the state, a growing volunteer water-quality sampling effort is doing exactly that by bringing together state agencies, community organizations, educators, and local volunteers around one common goal: protecting the lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater resources that South Dakotans depend on every day.

Led by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SD DANR), the volunteer water quality sampling program continues to grow through partnerships with the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS), the Pierre Rotary Club, the Madison Rotary Club, the South Dakota Discovery Center, along with several lake associations and local community groups throughout the state. While each organization brings a different perspective to the effort, together they are creating a program built around science, education, and community involvement.

South Dakota's water resources are incredibly diverse. Rural water systems, municipal supplies, prairie lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and groundwater aquifers all play an essential role in supporting communities, agriculture, recreation, and economic growth. Monitoring those resources across such a large state is no small task, which is why the volunteer component has become such a valuable part of the program.

Through the leadership of SD DANR, volunteers are trained to collect water samples using standardized procedures that ensure consistency and accuracy. Sampling locations may include lakes, rivers, reservoirs, or other designated sites where long-term monitoring can help track changes in water conditions. The collected samples are then analyzed for indicators such as nutrient levels, bacteria, and turbidity, as well as other measurements that help paint a clearer picture of watershed health throughout the state.

While public water systems already conduct routine compliance testing, the volunteer program adds another layer of monitoring and creates something equally important: public awareness and community ownership. Instead of water quality monitoring happening quietly behind the scenes, local citizens become directly involved in understanding and protecting the water around them.

That community connection is where organizations like SDARWS and the Rotary Clubs play such an important role. SDARWS helps coordinate training, communication, and statewide support efforts while connecting water professionals and local volunteers. With longstanding relationships across South Dakota communities, the organization helps bridge the gap between technical water management and community engagement.

The Pierre Rotary Club and Madison Rotary Club have embraced the effort as an extension of their commitment to service. Rotary members participate in sampling events, help promote awareness locally, and encourage community involvement in protecting nearby water resources. Their participation brings energy and visibility to the program while reinforcing the idea that water protection is not solely the responsibility of agencies or utilities – it is something entire communities can take part in.

The South Dakota Discovery Center adds another important piece through educational outreach and funding support. By making water science more accessible and engaging, the Discovery Center connects students, families, and communities to the broader importance of watershed protection. Their involvement helps ensure the program reaches beyond data collection and becomes an opportunity for learning and long-term stewardship.

Lake associations and local volunteer groups have also become valuable partners in the effort. Many of these groups have a deep personal connection to the lakes and watersheds they help monitor. Their local knowledge, observations, and commitment to protecting the places they live and recreate provide an important grassroots perspective that strengthens the overall program.

One of the most rewarding parts of the project has been watching volunteers gain a deeper appreciation for water quality and watershed health. Many participants begin with little technical background, but quickly develop an understanding of how water is monitored, why trends matter, and how small changes in a watershed can affect entire communities downstream. That knowledge naturally spreads beyond the sampling events themselves as volunteers share what they have learned with neighbors, schools, and community organizations.

The program also helps strengthen relationships between agencies and the public. By involving citizens directly in the process, transparency increases and trust grows. Communities gain a better understanding of the work being done to protect local water resources, while agencies benefit from stronger local engagement and support.

At the same time, the data collected through the program serves a meaningful purpose. Tracking water quality trends over time helps support watershed planning, resource management, and long-term protection efforts across South Dakota. Identifying concerns early can help communities and agencies respond proactively before larger issues develop.

As participation continues to expand, organizers hope to grow the program into even more communities across the state. Additional sampling locations, expanded educational outreach, and increased volunteer involvement all remain part of the long-term vision. More importantly, the partnerships being built today are helping create a stronger culture of water stewardship for the future.

What makes the program unique is not simply the science behind it, but the people involved in making it happen. State agencies provide technical expertise and oversight. Organizations like SDARWS help coordinate efforts statewide. Educational partners expand outreach opportunities. Rotary Clubs, lake associations, and local volunteers contribute the community pride and energy that keep the program moving forward.

Together, they are building more than a water sampling network. They are building a shared understanding that protecting South Dakota's water resources is everyone's role. Through collaboration, education, and volunteer involvement, communities across the state are helping ensure that clean, reliable water remains one of South Dakota's greatest strengths for generations to come.

SDARWS LAUNCHES FIRST APPRENTICESHIP COHORT

The first Apprenticeship Cohort for the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) officially began on February 1, 2026. Six apprentices are making history as they begin their careers in the water industry, learning alongside experienced mentors from water systems across South Dakota.

During the program, apprentices will complete a minimum of 288 hours of Related Technical Instruction (RTI) along with 4,000 hours of On-the-Job Training (OJT). Mentors play a critical role by sharing their expertise, guiding apprentices through daily operations, and evaluating their progress throughout the program.

This partnership provides new employees with valuable firsthand knowledge about the water industry – learning both best practices and lessons from experience. Ultimately, the program helps ensure that safe, reliable, and high-quality water continues to be delivered to communities across the state.

Apprentice John Halverson shared his experience so far:

"Through the apprenticeship program, I have learned the importance of having a good mentor. My mentor and I have created a great working relationship. Scott has taught me valuable information ranging from simple task etiquette to how to properly perform tasks and manage our water treatment facility. I'm really looking forward to how this apprenticeship program will continue to teach me valuable skills for my career."

KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE TO BE AN APPRENTICE?

SDARWS is currently recruiting apprentices, employers, and mentors for the Fall 2026 Apprenticeship Cohort, which is scheduled to begin October 1, 2026.

For more information or to get involved, contact Kindra at kindra@sdarws.com or 605-501-9208.

MEET THE FIRST GROUP OF APPRENTICES

City of Woonsocket
Colten Trabing, Apprentice
Rich Jensen, Mentor

My contribution to my community would be the best thing so far (about the apprenticeship program). I have learned so much so far in the water field. My biggest thing I've been learning on the job is finding curb stops and having that image in my mind. Physically doing stuff and learning as I go is the best training for me.

South Lincoln RWS
John Halverson, Apprentice
Scott Cameron, Mentor

My mentor has taught me to take value in the work that I do and to provide the best customer service I possible can.

TM Rural Water District
Anthony Hanisch, Apprentice
Jason Krumbach, Mentor

I like how it is self-paced. You can watch the lessons whenever you have time.

Tripp County WUD
Joey Cole, Apprentice
Bud Jacobsen, Mentor

I've really learned a lot from my mentor. The thing that I feel has and will help the most is trying to locate water lines and finding external resources to help locate them. The training I find the most helpful is when Tim comes down to Winner because you can have actual conversations with knowledgeable people – helps aid the learning process.

City of Baltic
Paul Osthus, Apprentice
Ryan Fods, Mentor

I think the best part is the understanding of how important it is to make sure our water is safe and what actually goes into making that a reality. One thing I have learned from my mentor is how to test our water once a month and make sure all the proper documentation is filled out. The hands on training is definitely the best part.

TM Rural Water District
Jack Even, Apprentice
Greg Simmermon, Mentor

RANDALL COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

On January 17, 1972, an organizational meeting of the twenty-one member Steering Committee was held in Lake Andes. Randall Community Water District (RCWD) became the new water district for Charles Mix County. Initial funds were given in the form of a loan from the State Planning Agency.

A motion was passed at the December 19, 1972 meeting to begin the Randall Community Water District project. The district boundaries were to include all of Charles Mix County, a portion of Douglas County south of Highway 44, and parts of Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule and Hutchinson Counties as needed upon signup. The engineering firms of Bartlett & West, and Foster Van Gundy and Associates were hired to complete the design of the Randall Community Water District project.

A resolution was passed on April 4, 1974, with the purpose of forming a rural water district to provide and distribute water to rural homes, pastures, and cities in Charles Mix and surrounding counties. The project was divided into three phases. Water for the first phase was purchased from the city of Lake Andes. Once operational, Phase I of the project served 148 rural customers.

The government site of the former radar station near Pickstown was obtained to build storage with adequate elevation to ensure proper water pressure, and a site near the city of Pickstown was secured for a pumping facility for Phase II of the RCWD project. Phase II would supply water to the southern portion of Charles Mix County and portions of surrounding counties.

June 1975 brought approval to negotiate for the purchase of land south of Platte as the location of the Phase III Treatment plant. This plant would serve Platte and the surrounding areas in northern Charles Mix, Douglas, Aurora and Brule Counties. The total original cost of RCWD was $9,350,000.

RANDALL COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

A resolution was signed in October to obtain water from Lake Francis Case and enter into an agreement with the US Department of the Army Corps of Engineers to purchase water for the purpose of treatment and distribution to its customers.

Over the years Randall has grown from 148 to approximately 3,100 rural customers, including 15 bulk users. The water system now has two intake structures, two water treatment plants, and fifteen storage facilities (tanks). Water sales for 2025 totaled 1 billion gallons.

As the need for potable water has expanded, so has the district. In an effort to maintain its service to all customers, lines have been extended to the north and east to serve Davison Rural Water System, Aurora-Brule Rural Water System, and the City of Mitchell. Three new transmission tanks have been constructed and both treatment plants have been upgraded; the most current upgrade was completed on the Platte Treatment Plant which now utilizes a state-of-the-art membrane filtering system.

Providing quality, affordable drinking water to rural customers and communities remains the goal of the Board of Directors and staff of Randall Community Water District.

DIRECTORS:

Dave Meyerink – President
Chris Slaba – Vice President
Vance Qualm – Secretary
John Carda – Treasurer
Mike Kuhlman – Director
Tom Travis – Director
Joel Lau – Director
Randy Kott – Director
Trent Beltman – Director

STAFF:

Scott Pick – General Manager
Ricky Bergin – Chief Operations Officer
Megan Bergin – Chief Financial Officer
Mollie Petrik – Billing Clerk
Rebecca Qualm – Inventory
Jason Kafka – Easement/Sensus
Terry Koupal – Plant Operator/Electrician
Gavin Westendorf – Plant Operator
Jason Wright – Plant Operator
Jordan Kocer – Plant Operator/Electrician
Corbin Dean – Plant Operator/Electrician
Daniel Hjelm – Plant Operator/IT/GPS
Mason Wright – Operator Distribution
Corey DeBey – Operator Distribution
Grant Petrik – Operator Distribution/Electrician
Tyler Swanson – Operator Distribution
Cody Svatos – Operator Distribution
Heath Hahlbeck – Operator Distribution
Dawson Lensing – Operator Distribution
Jared Swanson – Operator Distribution/Electrician
Aaron Swanson – Operator Distribution
John Ziegler – Line Locate
Jacob Wenzlaff – Operator Distribution

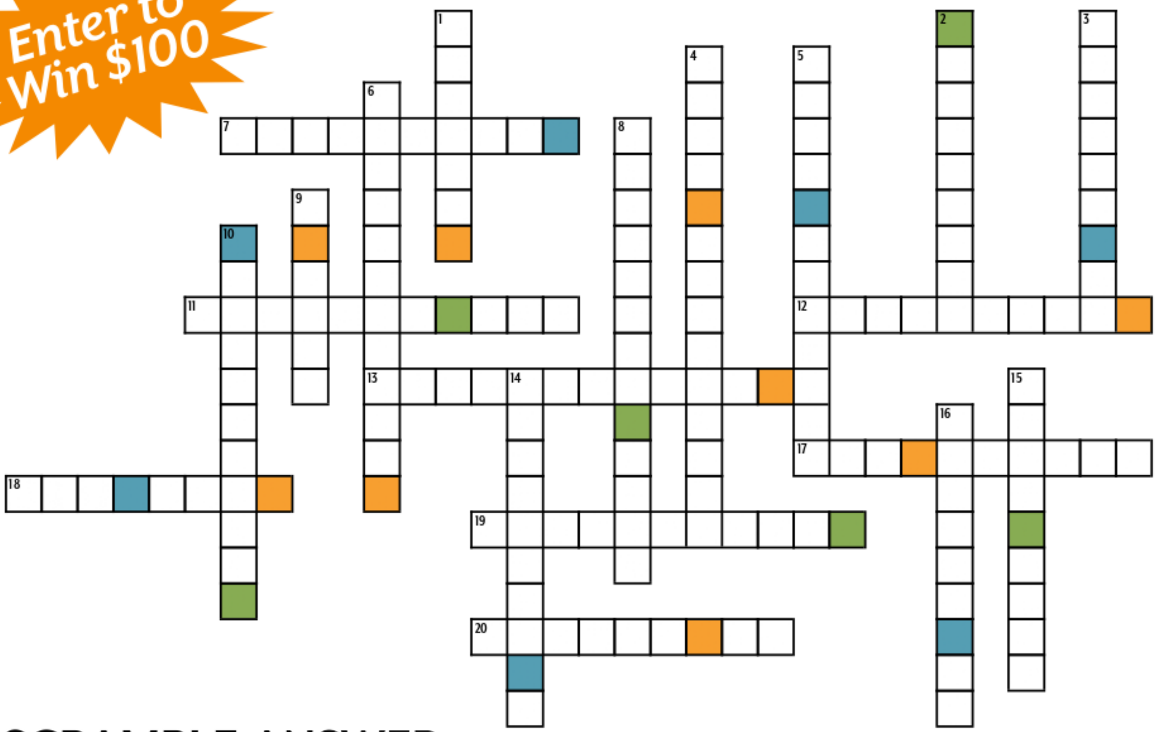
STATISTICS:

Hookups – 3,167
Miles of Pipeline – 1,860
Water Source – Missouri River
Counties Served – Charles Mix and portions of Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Douglas, Hutchinson
Towns Served Individual – Dante, Harrison, New Holland, Ravinia
Towns Served Bulk – Armour, Aurora-Brule RWS, Corsica, Davison RWS, Delmont, Fort Randall Casino, Geddes, Greenwood, Lake Andes, Marty, North Wagner Housing, Pickstown, Platte, Wagner, YST Truck Plaza

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PARKS

Enter to Win $100



- ☐ ANGOSTURA
- ☐ BEAR BUTTE
- ☐ CUSTER
- ☐ FARM ISLAND
- ☐ GOOD EARTH
- ☐ HARTFORD BEACH
- ☐ LAKE HERMAN
- ☐ LAKE VERMILLION
- ☐ LEWIS AND CLARK
- ☐ NEWTON HILLS
- ☐ OAKWOOD LAKES
- ☐ PALISADES
- ☐ PELICAN LAKE
- ☐ RICHMOND LAKE
- ☐ ROY LAKE
- ☐ SHADEHILL
- ☐ SHEPS CANYON
- ☐ SICA HOLLOW
- ☐ SNAKE CREEK
- ☐ WEST BEND

SCRAMBLE ANSWER

ACROSS

7. Popular Pierre-area camping and boating destination
11. Heavily wooded park with excellent hiking and horseback riding trails near Canton
12. Popular camping and fishing destination near Madison - home of Herman Luce.
13. Missouri River destination named after famous explorers
17. Mysterious wooded ravine known for Native American legends
18. Missouri River recreation spot near Fort Pierre
19. Quiet northeastern park known for fishing and birdwatching near Watertown
20. Sacred mountain site located near Sturgis

DOWN

1. Northeastern South Dakota park popular with anglers and campers near Lake City
2. Park preserving one of the oldest known Native American village sites in the region
3. Reservoir park near Hot Springs popular for water sports
4. Southeastern South Dakota park popular for boating and swimming, named for the river it borders
5. Park known for fishing lakes and rolling prairie scenery near Brookings
6. Aberdeen-area park with hiking trails and water activities
8. Lakeside park located on Big Stone Lake near Minnesota border
9. Famous for its free-roaming buffalo herd and scenic Needles Highway
10. Rugged canyon area offering scenic hiking and wildlife viewing near Hot Springs
14. Lakeside campground on Lake Francis Case near Platte
15. Known for its dramatic pink quartzite cliffs along Split Rock Creek
16. Reservoir destination in western South Dakota known for boating and fishing

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information), **scan the QR code, or submit online at www.sdarws.com/crossword** with the correct phrase by July 15, 2026 to be entered into the $100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Laura Tolzin from Kingbrook Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "all people need hope" for April 2026.

West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

WATER QUALITY

Last year, West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water monitored your drinking water for possible contaminants. This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

WATER SOURCE

We serve 3,709 customer accounts. WR/LJ has several water sources for its seven-county service area. One intake is located in Lake Sharpe on the Missouri River. We purchase water from the Mni Wiconi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Ft. Pierre, SD operated by Oglala Sioux Rural Water. The Mni Wiconi WTP utilizes conventional water treatment and filtration processes. Groundwater sources are wells owned by the City of Wall and four wells owned by WR/LJ near Creighton, Quinn, and Wall. The state has performed an assessment of our source water and they have determined that the relative susceptibility rating for WR/LJ Rural Water public water supply system is low.

For more information about your water and information on opportunities to participate in public meetings, call 605-669-2931 and ask for Jake Fitzgerald.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

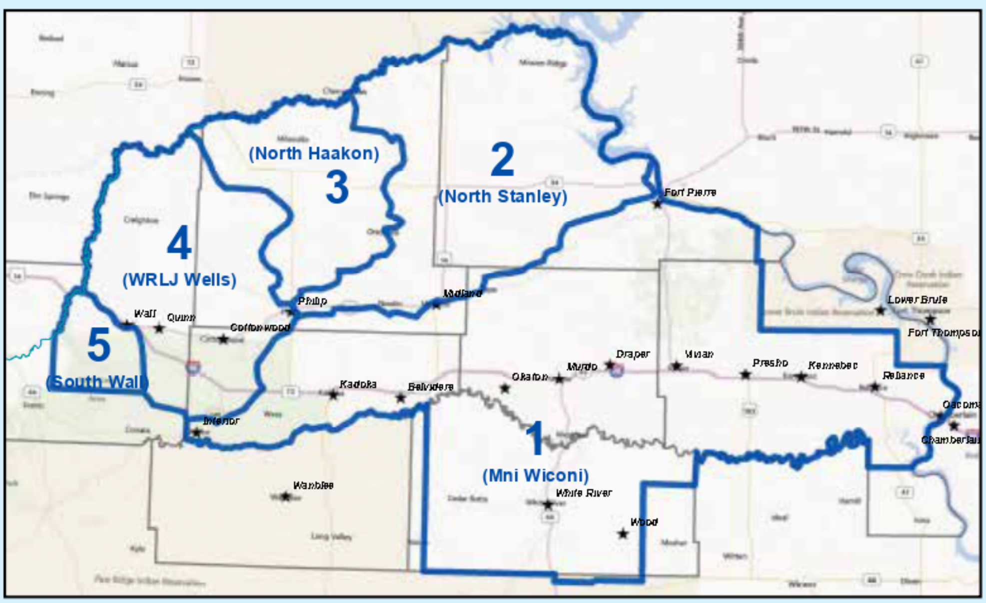
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

CONTAMINANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT IN SOURCE WATER INCLUDE:

- ***Microbial contaminants***, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ***Inorganic contaminants***, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- ***Pesticides and herbicides***, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- ***Organic chemical contaminants***, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

- ***Radioactive contaminants***, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



WHICH TABLE(S) APPLIES TO MY WATER?

For your water test results, please refer to the map for your water source.

WATER SOURCE 1
(Mni Wiconi)
See Tables A and B

WATER SOURCE 2
(North Stanley)
See Tables A and C

WATER SOURCE 3
(North Haakon)
See Tables A and C

WATER SOURCE 4
(WR/LJ Wells)
See Table D

WATER SOURCE 5
(South Wall)
See Table E

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants can be obtained by calling the Environment Protections Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The West River/Lyman-Jones public water supply system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at *www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS

The following tables list all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2025 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the tables are from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2025. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old.

TABLE A

TABLE A - 2025 TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS FOR MNI WICONI WATER TREATMENT PLANT (OGLALA SIOUX RURAL WATER) SURFACE WATER

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Units	Major Source of Contaminant
Copper	90% Level = .62		2025	AL=1.3	1.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	90% Level = 2		2025	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Sample Date	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Units	Major Source of Contaminant
Antimony	0.28	0.28 - 0.28	2025	6	6	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; test addition.
Barium	0.0379	0.0379 - 0.0379	2025	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Chloramines	2.7	2.2 - 2.7	2025	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	ppm	Water additive used to control microbes.
Chromium	0.22	0.22 - 0.22	2025	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.8	0.78 - 0.78	2025	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	21	20.6 - 20.6	2025	60	No goal for the total	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Selenium	1.1	1.1 - 1.1	2025	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	13	12.6 - 12.6	2025	80	No goal for the total	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Turbidity	1.11 NTU 100%		2025	TT: 1 NTU TT: % of samples </=0.3	0	NTU	Soil Runoff. Turbidity is a measurement of the clarity of the water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Violation	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Likely Source of Contamination
0	1 positive monthly sample	1		0	0	Naturally present in the environment

TABLE B

TABLE B - 2025 TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS FOR WR/LJ SURFACE WATER FROM LAKE SHARPE ON MISSOURI RIVER (EPA ID 2223)

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Date Tested	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Units	Major Source of Contaminant
Copper	90% Level = 0.4	# Sites > 1.3 AL - 0	9/23/25	AL=1.3	0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	90% Level = 3	# Sites > 15 AL - 0	9/23/25	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.8	0.65 - 0.8	2/5/25	4	<4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (RAA)	23.6		9/26/25	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Results are reported as a running annual average of test reults.
Total Trihalomethanes (RAA)	33.2		9/26/25	80	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Results are reported as a running annual average of test reults.
Substance	**Level Detected**		**Date Tested**	**Range**		**Units**	
PFBA	0.0081		5/3/23	<MRL-0.0081		ppb	These contaminants are not regulated and acceptable levels have not been set by EPA.
Lithium	80.0		6/6/23	51-80.0		ppb	

TABLE C

TABLE C - 2025 TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS FOR WRLJ SURFACE WATER SOURCE FROM LAKE SHARPE ON MISSOURI RIVER (EPA ID 2224)

Substance	Highest Level Detected	Range	Date Tested	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Units	Major Source of Contaminant
Copper	90% Level = 0.4	# Sites > 1.3 AL - 0	9/23/25	AL=1.3	0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	90% Level = 3	# Sites > 15 AL - 0	9/23/25	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	0.8	0.67 - 0.8	11/3/25	4	<4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer & aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (RAA)	17.9		9/26/25	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Results are reported as a running annual average of test results.
Total Trihalomethanes (RAA)	31.6		9/26/25	80	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Results are reported as a running annual average of test results.

TABLE D

TABLE D - 2025 TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS FOR WRLJ CREIGHTON AREA WELLS - GROUNDWATER SOURCE (EPA ID 2156)							
Substance	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range**	**Date Tested**	**Highest Level Allowed (MCL)**	**Ideal Goal (MCLG)**	**Units**	**Major Source of Contaminant**
Copper	90% Level = 0.3	# Sites > 1.3 AL - 0	9/23/25	AL=1.3	0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	90% Level = 2	# Sites > 15 AL - 0	9/23/25	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Antimony	1.00	1.00 - 0.00	7/21/25	6	6	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder.
Barium	0.0275	0.0275 - 0.0163	11/7/22	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	1.90	1.90 - 0.00	11/7/22	100	100	ppb	Discharge from steel an pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride *VIOLATION* (see below)	2.85	2.30 - 2.85	10/14/25	4	<4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Haloacetic Acids (RAA)	<4.5	<4.5	10/9/25	60	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	<0.2	All 4 samples <.2	10/14/25	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite (as Nitrogen)	<0.02	All 3 samples <.02	8/29/24	1	1	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	3	3.00 - 0.00	7/21/25	50	50	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0	positive samples	2 each month	1	0	pspm	Naturally present in the environment.
Total Trihalomethanes (RAA)	<0.5	<.5	10/9/25	80	0	ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

Violation Type	Date Notified	Health Effects
Fluoride - Secondary Violation	4/1/26	Childred under 9 years of age may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth from drinking water containing more than 2 ppm of fluoride.
WR/LJ Creighton, Quinn, and north Wall wells exceeded the secondary maximum contaminant level for fluoride. The problem will be ongoing unless the area receives its water from another source or the natural level of fluoride drops below MCL limits.		

TABLE E

TABLE E - 2025 TABLE OF DETECTED CONTAMINANTS FOR CITY OF WALL WELLS - GROUNDWATER SOURCE (EPA ID 0417)							
Substance	**Highest Level Detected**	**Range**	**Date Tested**	**Highest Level Allowed (MCL)**	**Ideal Goal (MCLG)**	**Units**	**Major Source of Contaminant**
Copper	90% Level = 0.1	# Sites > 1.3 AL - 0	8/29/24	AL=1.3	0	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead	90% Level = 1	# Sites > 15 AL - 0	8/29/24	AL=15	0	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	0.0180	0.0180 - 0.0000	8/4/21	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	1	ND - 1	8/4/21	5	0	pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride *VIOLATION* (See Below)	3.15	2.09 - 3.15	11/12/25	4	<4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Total Coliform Bacteria	1	positive samples		1	0	pspm	Naturally present in the environment.
Substance	**Level Detected**		**Date Tested**	**Range**		**Units**	
Lithium	238		10/16/23	58.6-238		ug/l	This contaminant is not regulated and acceptable levels have not been set by EPA.

Violation Type	Date Notified	Health Effects
Fluoride - Secondary Violation	4/1/26	Childred under 9 years of age may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth from drinking water containing more than 2 ppm of fluoride.
WR/LJ Creighton, Quinn, and north Wall wells exceeded the secondary maximum contaminant level for fluoride. The problem will be ongoing unless the area receives its water from another source or the natural level of fluoride drops below MCL limits.		

It is easy to forget that our drinking water doesn't just come from a tap or a bottle. The water that we drink comes from streams, rivers, lakes or from ground water wells that tap underground aquifers. Protecting these sources is very important for a community's drinking water. Get involved in local source water protection programs aimed at preventing contamnination of drinking water sources and reducing costs for treatimg water to make it safe.

DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN TABLES

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. For Lead and Copper, 90% of the samples must be below the AL.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. For turbidity, 95% of samples must be less than 0.3 NTU.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): This is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

NESC: Non-enforceable secondary contaminant

Running Annual Average (RAA): Compliance is calculated using the running annual average of samples from designated monitoring locations.

UNITS USED IN TABLES

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units

ND: Non Detectable

pspm: positive samples per month

CONTACTS

If you have any questions about this testing information, please call the Murdo office at 1-800-851-2349 or 605-669-2931 for assistance. The WR/LJ Board of Directors regular meeting is the third Thursday of each month at the main office at 307 Main St. in Murdo, SD. This report will remain on file at the Murdo office.

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WATER MATTERS
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Water bodies can be used for purposes such as recreation (e.g. swimming and boating), scenic enjoyment and fishing, and are the home to many aquatic organisms. To protect human health and aquatic life in these waters, water quality standards (WQS) are established. WQS are provisions of state, tribal or federal law that describe the desired condition of a water body and the means by which that condition will be protected or achieved. Further, WQS form a legal basis for controlling pollutants entering these waters.

Standards are typically defined in terms of an acceptable concentration or level of a particular chemical, physical or biologic parameter. For example, in South Dakota, for waters designated as drinking water supplies, the concentration of nitrate (NO3-) can not exceed 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Waters designated as cold-water fisheries (trout streams), water temperature can not exceed 65°(F). If swimming (Immersion Recreation in government speak) is the goal, levels of Escherichia coli (E. coli) bacteria in excess of 235 colonies per 100 milliliters of sample are considered problematic.

It is important to understand that while WQS have been established for most water bodies in the State, compliance with the WQS does not mean that the water is completely free of any possible contaminants. The established standards most often reflect the best scientific estimate of when the potential risk to human health, etc.., is no longer statistically acceptable. Although the water might be considered 'safe' from a regulatory standpoint, contaminants may be, and most likely are, still present.

When presenting water quality information, the results of a particular water quality test are often expressed as either pass or fail. A nitrate reading of 9.0 mg/L would be considered 'acceptable,' as it is below the 10 mg/L WQS. However, background nitrate levels in South Dakota waters rarely exceed

1-2 mg/L, so the 9.0 reading is strongly suggestive of a problem that ought to be addressed, even if it technically meets the WQS.

There is nothing magical about WQS. That is, compliance does not translate to zero risk."Similarly, violation of WQS does not mean that interaction will result in certain harm. It is important to know not only what is in your water, but also what this really means.

What are South Dakota's water quality standards? They can be found in Chapter 74:51:01 of the Administrative Rules of South Dakota. Scan the QR Code to learn more.

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:

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